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The Californian (Salinas, California)

August 15, 2011 Monday

**SECTION:** NEWS

**HEADLINE:** Federal reps to visit Salinas in ongoing fight against gang violence

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This week, a delegation of seven representatives from a number of federal agencies will make a two-day stop in Salinas as part of the city's ongoing fight against gangs and youth violence.

Georgina Mendoza, deputy city attorney and director of the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace, which drafted a strategic work plan to address gang violence, said the visit is the first since Salinas was included last year in the White House's six-city gang and youth violence pilot program, along with Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis and San Jose.

Among the group visiting are representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California, the city's site coordinator from the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, the Department of Justice's Center of Faith based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Department of Labor and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mendoza said the visit's purpose is to simultaneously point out successes of the plan as well as to identify areas of weaknesses. She said the visit is also to identify what other resources are needed. She said the delegation will arrive on Wednesday.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 16, 2011